

"TO SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY"—A NATIONAL PROGRAM

(BY H. D. S.)

TO THE insistent call of national duty today there is but one answer, when it comes to making preparation for the great task that lies before us—the task of successfully defending our "right to peace."

That answer is "Universal military training in time of peace, universal liability and obligation to perform military or civil public service in time of war, at the direction of competent public authority and without individual liberty of choice as to the field of service."

The Herald is speaking of the direct obligation of the citizen to his government, to the whole nation. It is assumed that government will make adequate preparation in providing sufficient naval and military material, including ships, weapons, munitions, and general supplies.

The volunteer system is wrong in principle, and futile in practice. The term "conscription" is a misnomer, because it there be any element of compulsion it lies in the very essence of our democratic system of government, the subordination of the individual to the general good, an assumed universal voluntary submission to the constitution, a claim upon all its rights, and therefore a corresponding duty to defend it and conserve the republic.

One of the purposes of the constitution (as stated in the preamble) is to "provide for the common defense." Another is to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Congress is given power "to declare war; to raise and support armies; to provide for calling forth, organizing, arming, disciplining, and governing the militia." There are certain restrictions that may require a constitutional amendment to correct in accordance with modern needs. But the intent to make it possible for the republic to defend itself, is clear.

The conflict between state control and federal or national control of the militia began as soon as the first president was inaugurated, and has never ceased. The plan adopted was a failure, but it has never been materially changed to this day. The first militia law was enacted in 1792. While this has been superseded, after 111 years during which it was but charily amended, it is interesting to note what ideas the fathers of the republic had about universal service. There has never been any doubt about the constitutional right of the president or governors of states to resort to the so-called "draft" to compel universal service of able bodied men "to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions." The problem of possible service outside the national boundaries is no easy one, but the preamble covers even this contingency.

The law of 1792 declared that every able bodied man between the ages of 18 and 45, with certain exemptions, should be enrolled in the militia; that the whole population so enrolled should be organized under proper officers; that those officers should be held responsible for complete enrollment, which should take in every youth on arriving at the age of 18, and every eligible coming to reside in the officers' districts; that each individual enrolled should provide his own arms, equipment, and munitions, and must appear, "armed, accoutered, and provided, when called out to exercise, or into service." Failure to appear subjected him to severe punishment by court martial.

Regular detailed reports were required to be made to the state adjutants general and commanders, and by them to the president of the United States annually on or before the first Monday in January. Regular army discipline and drill were imposed. In case of invasion, threatened invasion, or rebellion, the president was empowered to call the militia into service under his command exercised through the proper officers. "as he may think proper."

This law remained practically unamended until the civil war, and then, was not repealed but added to. With a few subsequent changes it remained the law of the land until 1903, when a new militia law was enacted. Since then the statutes have been materially changed.

But as illustrating the prevailing sentiment of the nation for more than 100 years, the original act is most interesting. The principle of "Universal training in time of peace, universal service in time of war," was unreservedly recognized. To revise the application of the principle will be no innovation.

That we must place ourselves in readiness, adequately to defend the commonwealth and to act as to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," needs no argument with patriots, however much honest difference of opinion there may be among them as to the best means to adopt.

Our moral influence—our pacific influence if you will—will be all the greater in the world if we look well after our home affairs first.

Our international policy should be, not one of isolation, but a policy of self-reliance and independence. The Herald regrets to find itself in vigorous opposition to the plans of the proposed "League To Enforce Peace," since those plans seem to have won the approval of the master minds of this country almost unanimously. It is a little voice indeed that is raised here against any such plan, but the word is spoken at least in sincerity of conviction. Old Lord Fairfax used to say: "Liberty with order, independence with respect for law." Our true destiny lies now, not in measures calculated to entangle us in affairs of other continents, but in the consistent following out of a policy of square dealing, good fellowship, and self defence.

We should define the sphere of our proper dominion, demarcated by the necessities of our situation, and far less extensive than heretofore vaguely claimed. Doing justice always, we should require no less of all men. The United States has a "right to peace" which it must itself alone defend; and in insuring that minimum degree of safety, we must consider the possible radius of attack, and safeguard the area so indicated.

All thought of exerting any military or naval force beyond the bounds of that area, except solely for self defence, should be abandoned. There is no limit to the extension of our friendly social and commercial intercourse with all mankind, and the proper and timely exercise of our moral and intellectual influence where it may find a welcome.

A definite policy once adopted, we must prepare to enforce the policy on which we enter, against all the world in arms should that become necessary.

Up to a certain point we can rely on the justice of our cause. But nations under great stress have never hesitated to abandon their more or less sentimental rules of conduct; nor will they in time to come.

We must prepare to face the possibility of a world in future that may not always be willing to let us go our peaceful way. We cannot, and we do not desire to, lead a great alliance; nor can we safely afford to play the game of any other world power or group of powers. We must confirm ourselves in the safe possession of such territory

and dominance as we deem necessary to our self preservation. Here is a task for great diplomacy; but no less a task for patriotism in providing that vast organized reserve power on land and sea without which our tenure will be dependent on the will of aliens.

The United States cannot afford to be less than perfectly just to the rest of the world; and within the sphere we may declare as ours we should be at all times generous to the last degree, faithful to highest ideals of human service, but practical and sensible, fearless and firm. The Herald does not admit any "right" of neighbor nations to make perpetual international nuisances of themselves and maintain a zone of constant and imminent danger at our door. But we can place ourselves in position to insure to neighbors that most valuable possession: "Liberty with order, independence with respect for law."

We have the power, latent though it be, to carry out this policy. If our way is right, we can defend it against all the world if necessary. But we must develop, coordinate, and train our power for efficient use in an emergency—create a perfect tool and prepare ourselves to use it when necessary.

The next census will probably show that our industrial power is equal to that of the rest of the world combined; we have but to maintain our lead. Our transportation facilities, faulty as they are, on land are unequalled anywhere; on the sea they are very deficient but they need not remain so. Our supply of raw materials of subsistence and manufacture is deficient in only a few essential things; in the aggregate it constitutes a third of the world's natural wealth, developed or known and likely to become available to the world in the next generation or two. We have not found ourselves yet; we do not know ourselves.

Our primary duty is to conserve all this, and to use it for the benefit of mankind, first seeing to it that the maximum opportunity for human development is guaranteed to our own people and our immediate neighbors.

This is work enough for our master minds for at least a century to come. This is not "little Americanism." It is the biggest kind of big Americanism, and as far as the poles apart from the mushy and dangerous political "internationalism" of the essayists.

We cannot develop too much power, provided only that we do not abuse it. When we abuse it, we shall become weak, and we shall be crushed as we deserve.

In its own organized power, justly used, intensively used, generously and kindly used, free from aggressiveness and free from hypocrisy, frankly American, honestly of service to our neighbors, but indisputably dominant in such a field as we deem necessary to our national safety, the United States can safely trust for the preservation of its "right to peace," for the insurance of freedom to develop sanely and broadly along lines lighted by the glowing spirit of this free people, can more safely trust than in any league or alliance with nations overseas. If they welcomed us, it would be to bind us.

There is no good reason why the United States should weaken itself or place itself at the mercy of any group of powers.

There is every reason why we should pursue a policy, not of isolation, but of self-reliance and independence in the world.

Our first reliance for safety is upon truth, justice, sincerity, and friendliness. Our final reliance is on our own military and naval power. When we become an appendage to an Old World syndicate of nations, there will be many a laugh among them at our expense; but our children and our children's children will not appreciate the joke.

The United States of America has a destiny wider and greater than we know. Changes in political grouping will come, in the nature of things, between the Great Lakes and the equator, and no living man has a right to try to commit this nation to unduly restrictive policies that may imperil us. If the United States of America in future occupies a larger space than now on the map, history will record its verdict that we gave infinitely more than we received in the new adjustment. Whether by a spread of "effectual protectorates," or by annexation, the extension must come; it ought to come peacefully and naturally, for the good of all concerned. The power of reason, skillfully applied, is tremendous, especially when tempered by genuine sympathy.

If in future the United States of Europe, the United States of Asia, the United States of South America, take form, also naturally and inevitably, these powerful groups can and will live together on the globe in peace, friendship, and common progress, among themselves and with the United States of America, which will be no alliance but a state with self governing units.

We are sure we shall perpetrate no aggression against the other continental groups. To insure their own peace they have only to act upon motives at least as high as we shall set for ourselves. The domestic geography within those groups, and the particular forms of political bonding they may devise, are matters of only academic concern to us. We must not permit ourselves to be dragged into their wars, which will recur as the economic struggle proceeds, and which will often result in changed maps. The United States of America of the future, with its necessary outposts in the two oceans, will command all of our time, attention, and loving devotion. The self interest of the other groups will keep our trade ways open.

To refrain from new commitments; to repeal improper ones; to leave our acts to speak for themselves; to police our own domain effectually; to do justice, and require that justice be done to us; to serve mankind generously, modestly, and sincerely; to avoid meddling with what only remotely concerns us; to serve the peace of the world by provoking no quarrels; to use the great resources we possess so as to benefit the race, equalize opportunity, and minimize waste of life, waste of effort, waste of material; to cherish the body, to feed the spirit, to free the soul—is not this program ambitious enough to afford scope for all the master minds we can produce?

Loyalty to the truth as one sees it, has been rewarded variously in this world—not seldom by the fool's cap, or by excommunication and burning for heresy, or by beheading and burying naked in quicklime for high treason.

Nevertheless, loyalty to one's own home and family makes a man a better citizen of the community.

And loyalty to one's own country makes a man a better citizen of the world.

Let us take care that out of the much touted "New Internationalism" we do not make a Tragedy Of Errors.

Roundabout Town

Mayor Building Dam To Protect City From Flood Cliff Street Across Noble And Brown Is Graded

BY G. A. MARTIN.

IF YOU should happen to wander out North Brown or North Noble street and run across a little railroad train, it is the Lea limited. The train is limited to work for the city at present; we call it the Lea limited because mayor Lea is directing its work.

For many months, mayor Lea has had an idea that if he built a dam across the northern end of Noble and Brown streets up there in the foothills, he could prevent W. W. Turner, Will Burges, Will Race, "Bill" Laughlin and scores of other people from having to swim every time a heavy rain fell. With this idea in view, the protection of all that section of the city in the vicinity of Noble and Brown streets, from the foothills down to and including the railroad yards—the mayor is having Cliff street graded from a point east of Brown street west to a point west of Noble, tying the grade at each end into small mountains. In grading this street, he is making a dam 20 or 30 feet high of dirt taken from the hills nearby. The dam will be the full width of a regular street.

North of the dam or newly graded street, two large ponds will be formed. The dam will hold the water back in these lakes instead of allowing it to flow down Noble and Brown streets

like a mad river when there is a heavy rain.

In the bottom of the dam at each street he has had corrugated iron drains placed so that some water will be allowed to pass through from the "lake" at all times. This will permit some of the water to run off as the rain falls, but will hold back the rest so that it will require several hours or even days to run off. Mayor Lea believes that this is going to prevent future serious damage to streets and property by washing, such as has been suffered so frequently in the past. Last year, for instance, an automobile of the Elita Confectionery company was practically buried on Noble street by the water, and rocks weighing half a hundred pounds were torn up and washed down on the pavement. The mayor is going to have Noble street paved up to the dam, so that the water, when released, will run all the way on a pavement and soon run off.

A large area of mesa and foothills is drained down into Noble and Brown streets after each rain and it was found impossible to turn this water off around the city in any manner, so the solution was considered the next best.

The dam is already large enough to catch the water in event of a heavy rain, but it is not nearly completed. It looks as if it would serve the purpose well when finished.

The fellow who stole my gun two years ago, came out last night and cleaned me out of tools in the garage. Guess I'll have to shoot the scoundrel puffer next time, but I'd hate to cause a sensation.

According to Capt. Pamphlet, John Smith was the Adrian Pool of the Jamestown colony.

It was referred to a committee of which I was one of "em," said a business man at a recent meeting. Night schools ARE needed.

It was so warm and pleasantly surprising on Tuesday that it is safe to order another ton of coal.

When Judge Peyton P. Edwards resided in southern Texas, he was once examining a young man for admission to the bar. He asked the young man to define the difference between murder and manslaughter. The young man replied that he hadn't given much attention to this, as "it doesn't make very much difference to the dead man."

County Judge E. B. McClintock was a fireman on the G. H. & S. A. railroad before he became a lawyer, but he did not fire very long. He passed a wreck where the second section of a freight train had derailed and the caboose was split and splintered the caboose

"My Valentine"

By NELL BRINKLEY

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MY Valentine—I made her. Will her face fit into your heart? Many a man's heart looks just this way on the Good St. Valentine's Day—out of it looks eyes and a smile that you—another sort of eyes and smile looking out of yours—may not think beautiful—but that fill HIS heart with a bubbling, throbbing wine that all but just spills over, and are the very

and three cars of the telegraph train, and decided that being a fireman was rather a more dangerous job than he wanted, so he quit.

"This is the first time I ever read the society column of the paper," said former county judge Adrian Pool, who looked over the account of the reception in honor of Mrs. Pool. "That shows what marriage will do for a man. I suppose I will be reading the society page regularly now."

Recently, while a number of militiamen were manuevering north of Fort Bliss, they cut the ranch fence of J. F. Reeves in 16 places and let out 200 head of his cattle. He never recovered all of them. Some of them were cows belonging to a widow.

Edgar Kayser objects to being compared with John D. Rockefeller. Wait until we hear what John thinks of it.

J. J. Tyndall, formerly agent for the Union Central Life Insurance company in El Paso, and prominent in the Rotary club, has been appointed general manager for the Canada Life Assurance company, for 14 counties in western Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Commercial Journal contains a lengthy article regarding his appointment, from which the following is quoted:

"Those in a position to judge believe the company acted wisely in the appointment of Mr. Tyndall. His territory comprises some 14 counties in the western portion of the state, and he is expected to organize the territory and develop a considerable portion of new business. He is a life insurance expert of years standing, having represented the Union Central Life Insurance company in El Paso, Texas, for some six years, and later having been prominent in insurance circles of Cincinnati as manager of the life and accident departments of the Travelers of Hartford. Mr. Tyndall is well versed in every detail of the business, and while at Cincinnati he delivered a series of lectures on life insurance to the University of Cincinnati which at-

Tax On Mortgages Would Close Texas Companies Engineers Of Southwest Meet Here March 8 To 10

IF THE legislative bills known as house bills 55 and 198, proposed to tax mortgages in Texas become laws, our company will simply close its doors and quit business," said W. L. Tooley, of the First Mortgage company. "If called upon to pay a tax of \$2.50 per \$100 on our loans we would have to quit, because it would make our loans worth only seven and one fifth per cent and we couldn't discount them for any less. There is another bill pending at Austin to reduce the legal rate of interest from ten to eight per cent. If the mortgage companies of the state attempted to charge the tax against the borrower in the way of commissions, they would be subject to prosecution for usury. If the bills become law they will put the mortgage companies in Texas out of business, and you will not find any individual willing to put out his money on such terms. Such a law will hit the small borrower hard for the reason that he will be unable to secure a home on a small cash payment. If El Paso really and commercial men want

these bills defeated, quick and vigorous action will be necessary."

"Motorists of El Paso will have to make hay in the next day or so if all of them are going to comply with the new traffic regulations," said Paul L. Burdette. This idea of making the automobile owners have a number, both on the front and the rear of their machines only means that quite a number of them are destined to be haled to court. It will call for strenuous work on the part of the traffic officers to enforce the new rules.

"I guess there isn't the strained feeling between the militia men and regulars which some people think there is."

Said Sergt. Smith of one of the regular army regiments at Camp Cotton. "The militia men have turned over the use of their back houses to us while we are getting straightened around, and it surely goes to further the friendship which should exist between the various units."

"The care and protection which the United States army and other government departments gave to the 500 Chinese residents of northern Mexico when they fled from Mexico after the withdrawal of the punitive expedition is only another instance of the friendliness which exists between the United States and Mexico."

(Continued on Page 9)

EL PASO HERALD

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